

A3 Double meth bust

The Nodaway Sheriff made two arrests for possession of methamphetamines.

A7 Planting seeds of hope

Northwest student created a garden for the residents at the Nodaway Nursing Home.

A12 Cats battle for spotlight

With new faces joining Northwest football, it's a fight for the available positions.



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 @TheMissourian

Family sues over wrongful death

KEJI AKINMOLADUN

Chief Reporter I @OluwatoyinKeji

The family of a former Northwest student is suing for wrongful death against Maryville SSM St. Francis Regional Health Services.

Lonnae Young, 21, died Feb. 16 at Maryville SSM St. Francis Regional Health Services. Young was a residential assistant in Dieterich Hall, but she was on duty at Franken Hall, when she experienced minor swelling from what Young believed was an allergic reaction.

Dejanae Thomas, a residential assistant in Dieterich Hall at the time, said Moira Auxier covered Young's shift so she could drive herself to SSM Feb. 15.

Senior Jacob Wheeler, a friend of Young's, said he thought Young would go to the hospital and would be back soon.

"She had allergies and had gone to the hospital before," Wheeler said. "I figured she would go and get her normal shot, and she would be back. (The hospital) would give her the normal shot that they had always given her, and she would be back in an hour or so."

Wheeler said Young called him from the hospital and it seemed like everything would be fine.

"It sounded normal for the situation," Wheeler said. "There wasn't anything in her tone of voice that raised red flags that something was going to go wrong."

John T. Symonds is the doctor who allegedly treated Young during her Feb. 15 visit to SSM. Young died the next morning.

Junior Samuel Grigsby said the Franken Hall director, Nicole Canning, met with all the residential assistants to inform them about Young's death.

"We had knocks on our doors," Grigsby said. "The hall director gathered us all together and told us the morning of."

Young's family is being represented by attorney Steven Garner, who is based out of Springfield, Missouri, and specializes in wrongful death suits. SSM and Symonds are without legal representation in the matter.

Garner said the family sought his help because they were worried about their daughter's death.

"They were very concerned about what happened to their daughter," Garner said. "They wouldn't want what happened to their daughter to happen to anyone else's daughter."

Garner said the family wanted to make sure that justice is served and this incident doesn't happen again.

"They sought out legal counseling for the same reason anyone else in this same situation probably would," Garner said. "They are concerned and would like to prevent this from happening in the future."

Once SSM went under new ownership with Mosaic Medical Center, which was effective April 1, all medical records were transferred to SSM Health in St. Louis. Symonds is still employed with Mosaic.

Young's family declined to comment on legal proceedings. Symonds and SSM did not respond to a request for comment in time for publication.



A small group of runners and one biker start in the front of the pack sporting bright colors and glow sticks to match the theme of the Glow for Kids Sake 5k and Fun Run Aug. 24 outside of Mosaic Medical Center.

For the kids' sake

Fun run raises money for mentor program

CAILEY HARTENHOFF

Chief Reporter I @caileyrae_

About 150 participants sporting gray t-shirts and luminescent glow sticks eagerly awaited the start of the 6th annual Glow for Kids' Sake 5K and Fun Run hosted by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Nodaway County outside of Mosaic Medical Center Saturday, Aug. 24.

The family-friendly event offered a 5K race and a two-mile course. All money raised from entry fees for the event will be put back into the BBBS program.

"It's great because it's so family friendly," program director Lynette Harbin said. "People can bring their kids, bring their strollers and take off and enjoy doing something as a family for a really good cause."

Among the crowd stood Kool Kats owner and BBBS mentor Leslie Ackman. Closely beside her was Harmony Smith, 9, Ackman's BBBS mentee. They are one of several matches from the program participating in the event.

Ackman and Smith have been matched as mentor and mentee, also known as Big and Little, since October 2018. They both believe they couldn't have been a better match.

"I got to know Harmony through my business, Kool Kats," Ackman said. "Her and her family would come to my trailer, and last September her mom called the BBBS office and said, 'Hey, my daughter Harmony would like to have a match, and we already know who we want — we want Leslie Ackman from Kool Kats.'"

After paperwork and some compatibility interviews to ensure a successful pairing, Ackman and Smith became Big and Little, an



Olivia Jackson, 7, eagerly awaits the beginning of the Glow for Kids' Sake 5K and Fun Run, hosted by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Nodaway County.

outcome Smith said she expected well before the completion of the required formalities.

"I knew I was going to have a perfect match," Smith said.

As the BBBS of Nodaway County program director, Harbin has personally seen how beneficial the program is for the youth.

According to Harbin, there are 70 kids actively matched within the program. However, there are about 20 more children on the waiting list seeking mentors.

"We're always going to have a waiting list and that list is always going to consist of mostly boys," Harbin said. "We're always looking for men to be mentors."

In addition to seeking more male mentors for the program, Harbin is also looking to grow the amount of college students as mentors.

"Of our 70 Bigs, about 40% of them are college students, so we

have a really large participation from the college," Harbin said.

Alex Tison, a junior at Northwest, has been involved in the BBBS program since his freshman year. He and several of his Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity brothers volunteered at the Glow Run as intersection supervisors along the route.

"At a national level, our philanthropy is BBBS, so it's great to represent Sig Ep and assist a local BBBS chapter that impacts our local community," Tison said.

According to Harbin, Tison will soon take a seat on BBBS of Nodaway County's Board of Directors as a college representative. Tison said he enjoys working with the agency and helping out others.

"I find value in assisting those, especially children, within the community, any way I can," Tison said. "It's rewarding to see your direct work being used to improve another person's life."

State honors Spanish teacher

KENDRICK CALFEE
Community News Editorl @KoalaCalfee

"Saber es poder. Knowledge is Power." She stood before her 9 a.m. Spanish IV class, reiterating her motivating mantra, three simple words that cure baggy eyes and high school stereotypes, as these students want to know more. Eager for what is to come and where life will take them, a classroom of seniors recite back "Saber es poder."

Maryville High School Spanish teacher Sandra Wood leaves a lasting impression on her students long after graduation. This is one reason, among many, the Maryville Public School District and community aren't dumbfounded by her recent accomplishments — a shot at Missouri Teacher of the Year.

Wood is in the finalist pool for the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's "Missouri Teacher of the Year" award. Among seven other finalists, Wood has been narrowed down from more than 240 state-wide nominations through a rigorous application and interview process conducted by the Missouri DESE.

Wood said she is grateful to have made it this far in the state nomination process.

"I feel very lucky, and it's very humbling because there are a lot of people who could be in this pool," Wood said. "There are a lot of really good teachers, and when I look at other teachers in the building and in our region and I think, 'Wow, what have I done that's so special?'"

A committee comprised of teachers, business leaders and educational organization leaders will choose the Missouri Teacher of the Year following interviews with each finalist Sept. 9. The winner, among finalists, semifinalists and regional teachers of the year will be honored at a banquet hosted by DESE Oct. 21 in Jefferson City.

MHS Principal Thom Alvarez said there are a number of reasons why Wood is a solid candidate.

240

State-wide nominations were made. Wood is one of seven finalist nominees.

"Señora (Wood) teaches in an area that is not required for high school graduation," Alvarez said. "MHS doesn't require a foreign language, however, she still sees more students each day than any other teacher in the school — that's including our STEM classes."

Wood sees about 160 students daily, bringing students from all backgrounds, possessing different aspirations into her Spanish classes.

Capitalizing on opportunity with numbers, Wood takes a group of students and their families on an optional trip to either Spain or Costa Rica through a company called Education First Tours, with the destination varying every two years. The one-year break between each gives students time to save up for the trip and plan ahead.

SEE WOOD | A4

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JUSANI JACKSON | NW MISSOURIAN

Nodaway County Sheriff Randy Strong participated in the annual Firearm Training Simulator Aug. 20 at Maryville Public Safety.

Officers undergo virtual reality training

KENDRICK CALFEE
Community News Editor | @KoalaCalfee

In a dark room featuring stress-inducing surround-sound gunfire and screams, a projector produced interactive scenarios that Maryville Public Safety officers played out as a part of their yearly training Aug. 20.

MPS officers participated in a certification measure issued by the city's insurance provider the Missouri Intergovernmental Risk Management Association. The Firearms Training Simulator provides various electronic scenarios that al-

low officers to practice their skills, wielding an electronic firearm or taser when force is necessary.

Essentially a virtual reality simulation from a computer and projector, officers are able to receive training in scenarios such as active shootings, domestic disputes, pull-over drive-offs and suicide threats. Each scenario can be altered to have different outcomes, forcing the participant to make quick decisions, just as if they are in the line of duty.

After each scenario is finished, those in the room have an open dialogue, discussing and justifying

why specific decisions were made by the participants.

MPS Director Keith Wood said the simulation helps provide officers with quality experience they can transfer to real-life situations.

"These scenarios are meant to prepare our officer staff for situations that could happen any day," Wood said. "Just as important as range (target shooting) work, they've got to be able to make the right judgment calls in the field."

Dialogue following the scenarios included whether or not to use lethal force, basic coordination skills and moral reasoning.

"In the unfortunate climate of there being more and more active shootings, we make sure they get training in those scenarios on the firearms training simulator," Wood said. "We are preparing our officers for the worst so we can transfer it over and be the best we can."

MPS officer Wayne Wilson said the FATS provides trainees with proper insight.

"The hardest part about it is not ever being in the situations before," Wilson said. "If we can get in those situations, in a way, prior to one happening for real, it can make a huge difference."



MADI NOLTE | NW MISSOURIAN

ORGANIZATION FAIR - Freshman Richard Cooper takes a turn holding Foxy, a western fox snake, while visiting the Wildlife Club table at the Student Organization Fair on Aug. 20.



MADI NOLTE | NW MISSOURIAN

ORGANIZATION FAIR - Northwest Horsemen's Association was one of about 90 student organizations present at the Student Organization Fair Aug. 28. Sophomore psychology major Saige Jones was one of many students to stop and meet miniature pony, Precious, while visiting the organization's table.

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NORTHWEST STUDENT MEDIA

Northwest looking to fill admin opening

SAMANTHA COLLISON
Campus News Editor | @SammieCollison

A fast-talker from Mississippi who introduced himself simply as "Dr. O," the University's candidate for the new associate provost of diversity and inclusion made his first impressions on students and employees Aug. 26.

A closed forum for students and an open forum for employees were held for the associate provost search committee to hear campus input on their candidate for the position, Ade Oredein.

The creation of the position brings diversity and inclusion under the umbrella of the Provost's Office. Diane Hargrave, executive secretary to the provost, said equity is now under Student Affairs alongside Title IX.

According to a newsletter sent out by University President John Jasinski, bringing DEI under the Provost's Office is an effort to decrease the gap in retention and graduation rates between majority and minority students.

"Institutions are under increased scrutiny for having a lack of clear metrics and academic accountability for actions," according to the newsletter. "Our new alignment and reallocation for an associate provost of DEI will focus on academic support for underrepresented students with metrics for the unit centered on retention and graduation."

Oredein has been an administrator in higher education for more than 10 years, according to Northwest's invite to the open forum, and was previously an associate dean of students, director of diversity and inclusion and coordinator of international student affairs at Owensboro Community and Technical College in Owensboro, Kentucky.

“

I've learned the hard way, you know your audience, you know your community, you know your climate before we start anything.”

-ADE OREDEIN

Before that, Oredein worked in enrollment management at Alcorn State University and Oglala Lakota College and was the director of the Center for Diversity and Community – Student Success at the University of South Dakota.

Oredein's emphasis throughout the open forum was getting to know the campus and community. He said knowing the population is the first step to establishing any programs or change.

"I've learned the hard way, you know your audience, you know your community, you know your climate before we start anything," Oredein said.

Oredein also focused on how diverse marketing is key to drawing in and creating a welcoming environment for underrepresented students.

He said traditional marketing methods often don't reach underrepresented students, especially non-white populations. Additionally, he said fostering a welcoming environment on campus creates a good reputation for the University in minority communities and encourages them to come.

"The LGBTQIA+ community can recruit itself if we get things right on campus," Oredein said. "You don't actually have to recruit them; they recruit themselves."

Oredein said he wanted to come to Northwest because it's in a small town in a rural community, which reminds him of where he grew up.

"I'm a country guy," Oredein said. "I always thought I wanted to get away from the rural, and I got to go to the city and I thought it was great, but I'm a country guy, and I wanted to get back to my roots and what I know and my comfort zone."

Denim drive benefits abuse victims

NATHAN ENGLISH
A&E Reporter | @ThananEnglish

New jeans can help provide a fresh start for those who have been victims of abuse. This is the inspiration behind the denim drive happening at the local Maurice's to benefit the Children and Family Center in Maryville.

Starting Aug. 26 customers can bring in a gently used item of denim clothing and receive 25% off of their in-store purchases. The idea for the drive comes from Maurice's company directive to encourage its stores to be involved in its community.

Each Maurice's was allowed to choose the individual organization of its choice, the only rules were that the charity organizations had to have no religious or political affiliation.

Maurice's store leader Taylor Dow chose the Children and Family Center of Maryville because it helped get her out of a bad situation.

"I personally got out of a violent, abusive relationship when I was nine months pregnant with my child," Dow said.

Having first-hand experience in leaving an abusive situation, Dow explained why simple things like jeans can mean so much to victims. "You feel like you have nothing and a lot of those women might leave with literally nothing to escape a bad situation," Dow said.

Dow wants to give back, she feels as though the Children and Family Center is often over-

looked when it comes to charities in the area.

Julia Day is a victim's advocate and volunteer coordinator for the Children and Family Center. Day said that donations are a crucial part of keeping the center running because often times the victims are starting completely over.

"A lot of times in abusive situations, the abuser is the one in control, and so they are in control of finances, in control of transportation and all of that, so (the victims) still need something as simple as jeans," Day said.

Dow is aiming to go beyond just jeans for the drive, however. Dow hopes that people will bring in donations of everything, from food to baby toys, to help out the center.

The Children and Family Center helps victims find new homes and houses for those who have no place else to go, so they need more than just new clothes to help victims get back on their feet.

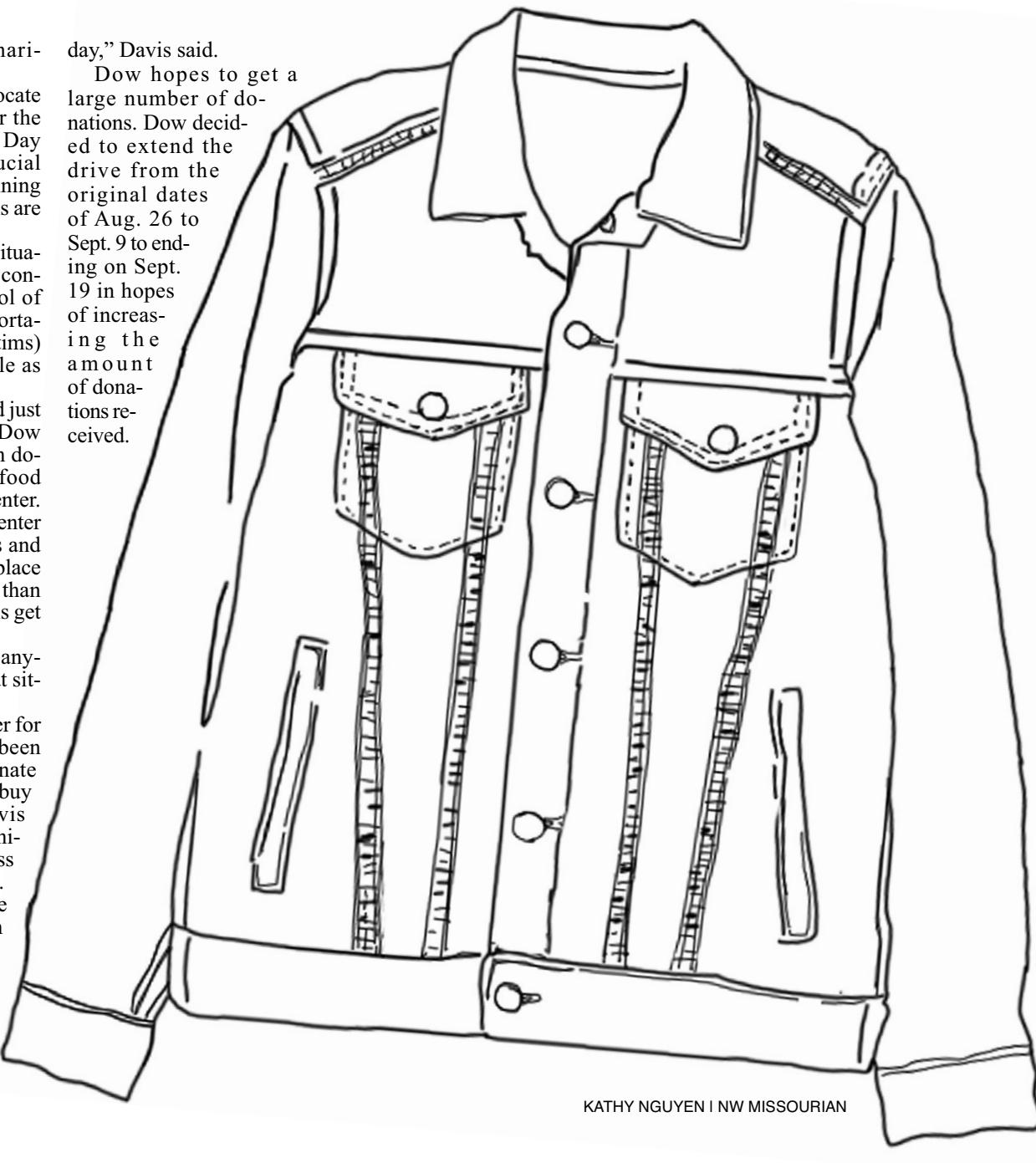
"We personally are taking anything that you could use in that situation," Dow said.

Part-time Assistant Manager for Maurice's Jessica Davis has been encouraging customers to donate everything they can and even buy jeans in store to donate. Davis praised the Maryville community for striving to help those less fortunate early on in the drive.

"We've had a lot of people support it in Maryville; you can see that the whole thing (donation bin) is full. It's full and it's only been going on for a

day," Davis said.

Dow hopes to get a large number of donations. Dow decided to extend the drive from the original dates of Aug. 26 to Sept. 9 to ending on Sept. 19 in hopes of increasing the amount of donations received.



KATHY NGUYEN | NW MISSOURIAN

Nodaway sheriff makes two meth busts in one day

Driver found with meth

KENDRICK CALFEE
Community News Editor | @KoalaCalfee

Nodaway County deputies arrested a Maryville, Mo. man involved in a hit-and-run incident in Fairfax Aug. 23.

Johnny Rich, 26, is in custody after deputies responded to an altercation in Fairfax, Mo. where a suspect allegedly struck a vehicle and left the scene. According to Nodaway County Sheriff Press Release, two deputies pulled Rich over in his ve-

hicle on Highway 46 near Route PP.

When the deputies came in contact with him they found a substance in his pocket that field tested positive for methamphetamine.

Nodaway County Sheriff Randy Strong said the deputies observed unnatural behavior at the time of the arrest.

"Deputies contacted the suspect who appeared to be under the influence of something other than alcohol," Strong said.

Planned drug buy reveals dealer

KENDRICK CALFEE
Community News Editor | @KoalaCalfee

A Conception Junction man was arrested on charges of distribution of a controlled substance following a controlled drug buy from the Nodaway County Sheriff's Department Aug. 23.

According to Nodaway County Sheriff Randy Strong, NCSD deputies took Christopher C. Wiederholt, 59, into custody during an investigation of methamphetamine

distribution by a person living in Conception Junction.

A local offender participated in the drug buy, where the Sheriff's department agreed to a possible lighter sentencing given their help in catching the individual distributing the substances.

After the NCSD observed the drug purchase, the Nodaway County prosecuting attorney issued a class C felony warrant for Wiederholt's arrest Aug. 23, and deputies followed through without incident

at his residence.

Strong said the apprehension was a smooth process.

"We were investigating distribution of methamphetamine, and we used a common tool law enforcement use, the drug buy," Strong said. "We found a civilian willing to participate."

Wiederholt is being held on a \$30,000 bond in Nodaway County Jail.

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Student organizes blood drive for scholarship contest

CAILEY HARTENHOFF
News Reporter | @caileyrae_

A Northwest student hosted and organized a blood drive Aug. 23 on the third floor of the J.W. Jones Student Union.

Junior Bailey Christensen has been donating blood regularly since high school and was motivated to host the blood drive for the Blood Stock Scholarship. She received \$300 due to the amount of donors that gave blood at her blood drive through the scholarship.

"The scholarship was a great benefit," Christensen said. "In general, it's a really good cause and it was something that is beneficial to others more than it is me, but it's a great way that I can help out."

Christensen planned the blood drive over the summer after taking a summer course on event planning and shadowing an event in St. Joseph, Missouri. Working with the Community Blood Center, she decided a summer blood drive would be best.

"We found the best time would be after school had started but at least 56 days prior to the Homecoming blood drive," Christensen said. "You have to wait 56 days or eight weeks to give blood again."

Northwest sophomore Katelyn Kramer is a regular blood donor who donated at the blood drive and plans to donate again at the Homecoming blood drive. Kramer said she chooses to donate blood because it's her duty and she has seen first-hand how it can save a life.

"One of my cousins needed a blood transfusion after a bad car wreck," Kramer said. "We are lucky she was able to have access to it thanks to everyone who donated."

Senior Mackenzie Clark said she feels blessed to not personally know anyone who has been in need of donated blood.

"It's important to donate blood because it is such an easy thing to do to help others," Clark said. "It may take an hour out of my time to donate, but my blood could possibly save someone's life — someone who just needs a transfusion or maybe it goes to a hospital where they use it in a time of crisis."

Christensen said 40 bags of blood were donated by 43 donors at the blood drive.

The next scheduled blood drive at Northwest, the Homecoming blood drive, will be Oct. 22 through Oct. 24 on the third floor of the J.W. Jones Student Union, hosted by the Homecoming Committee.

KENDRICK CALFEE
Community News Editor | @KoalaCalfee

Wind farm promises tax revenue for the county

largely operates off sales and gas tax, the \$1.4 million a year over 25 years will help fuel the economy in northwest Missouri.

Chris Burns, north district commissioner and local business owner, said he looks forward to seeing the commerce benefits of White Cloud.

“

We want to be a good neighbor to the community.”

—GEORG BECKER-BIRCK

"Construction employees transferring and getting hired here in Nodaway County will help accumulate general commerce in the community," Burns said. "They will be renting or buying properties, buying in local stores and eating at local restaurants. This means a surge in sales tax here for the county."

A more obvious service provided by White Cloud is the energy it will supply.

Senior Project Manager for White Cloud Georg Becker-Birck

said the energy collected by the wind farm could provide customers of the local Associated Electric Cooperative cheaper rates.

"Since our easily renewable energy output is being purchased by AECI, the local population could receive cheaper rates as a result of how great the northwest Missouri area is for wind," Becker-Birck said. "We are looking for electricity prices to go down and stabilize in this area, and since wind is the cheapest energy in the U.S., we believe we can achieve that."

According to the American Wind Energy Association, wind energy avoided the production of 201 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions in 2018. Becker-Birck said White Cloud wants to provide that reliable, sustainable energy to Nodaway County residents.

"We want to be a good neighbor to the community," Becker-Birck said. "We would like to thank the whole community of landowners, interested citizens and local legislators that helped make this happen. We look forward to a safe and successful wind farm project."

The wind farm is expected to be fully operational by fall of 2020, between July and September. Turbines are set to arrive at the site from late January and early March.

WOOD

CONTINUED FROM A1

Alvarez said it gives students the opportunity to use and apply the skills they learned in class.

"That kind of applied learning is very valuable," Alvarez said. "The classroom is important as well, obviously, but going out into the world and having real applications is even more so."

MHS senior Laura Feuerbacher attended the Spain trip in summer 2018. She said it was the best trip she had ever been on.

"Señora (Wood) has had a great impact on my life," Feuerbacher said. "She has a great way of teaching and always makes us do our best. ... Not only does she teach us Spanish, but she teaches us about life."

Two years ago, Wood went the extra mile in her teaching, noticing an unfortunate reality at the high school. She noticed that students with special needs and in those programs did not have the same access to learning foreign languages as the rest of the student body due to scheduling conflicts and curriculum unavailability.

When she came to Alvarez with the issue, the administration attempted to problem solve, but came up empty due to many conflicts. Since that day two years ago, Wood volunteers her lunch hour twice a week as well as time after school for those students.

"We have about five students from special education that come and learn either during lunch or after school," Wood said. "I have watched how the special education teachers interact with and teach them, since I was not trained specifically for that area, and it gave me a feeling of how to do this well."

Alvarez said her problem solving on an issue like that is why she makes such a lasting impact.

"Wood has been teaching for a long time," Alvarez said. "We are grateful to have someone like her teaching for this district."

Wood is on year 36 of teaching and has taught at MHS since 2005.



Maryville High School teacher Sandra Wood teaches her Spanish 4 class Aug. 26. Wood is a finalist for the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's "Missouri Teacher of the Year" award.

Prior to that, she taught at North Nodaway, both as an elementary teacher and in the high school for Spanish.

"I think all teachers in this building interact with each other in a really good way," Wood said. "I don't think it matters what discipline you're in; teachers are teachers. We love working with kids, and we learn how to do that from

each other."

Roosmari Pihlak, an exchange student from Estonia, is taking Spanish IV with Wood this year. She said Spanish is a great start to the day.

"She always makes it fun," Pihlak said. "I can read the Pledge of Allegiance in Spanish because of her."

According to DESE, the Mis-

souri Teacher of the Year program recognizes the efforts of effective teachers like Wood who provide quality education to their students. The new Missouri Teacher of the Year will serve as the state's nominee for the 2020 National Teacher of the Year.

Wood is excited to represent MHS in the running.

"My message to kids is know

and learn as much as you can, because you never know what you're going to need to know and you never know where life is going to take you," Wood said. "So knowledge is power ... Saber es poder, knowing things and having information and skills gives you the power to do what you want in life."

POLICE BLOTTERS WEEK OF AUGUST 29

Northwest Missouri State University Police Department

Aug. 22

There was a closed investigation for a liquor law violation at Perrin Hall.

There was a closed investigation for two liquor law violations at University Drive.

A summons was issued to Benjamin Demott, 30, and Carl Hendren, 38, for disorderly con-

duct at Brown Hall.

Aug. 23

A summons was issued to Bailey Moreland, 18, for weapons possession at Tower Suites.

There was a closed investigation for three liquor law violations at Lot 41.

Aug. 24

A summons was issued to Trinity Hurst, 18, and Brittney Ewing, 20, for a drug law offense at Millikan Hall.

There was a closed investigation for a liquor law violation at Dieterich Hall.

Aug. 25

A summons was issued to Christopher Alvarez, 20, and Nathan Kelly, 19, for disorderly conduct at Franken Hall.

Maryville Public Safety

Aug. 18

A summons was issued to

Tyler E. Brummer, 19, for driving while intoxicated, minor in possession and failure to illuminate headlights on the 800 block of South Main Street.

Aug. 23

A summons was issued to Mason P. Daniel, 20, for driving while intoxicated, minor in possession and failure to dim headlights on the 600 block of North Walnut Street.

Aug. 24

A summons was issued to

Deven M. Taylor, 22, for disorderly conduct on the 100 block of West 7th Street.

Aug. 25

A summons was issued to Jasmine M. Aldape, 22, for failure to stay on the right side of the roadway and failure to maintain financial responsibility on the 500 block of South Main Street.

Aug. 27

There is an ongoing investigation for larceny on the 600 block of West 1st Street.

Corruption adds fuel to fire



CHRIS YOUNG | NW MISSOURIAN

Students pay for class, not absence grade

ZION CHAMBLE
Columnist
@ChambleZion



Attendance policies are almost archaic in today's college lifestyle. The idea that an adult needs to set up a schedule for another fully-functioning adult is, dare I say, moronic.

If students want to sleep in late and play video games all day, it is their choice to do so. And college students around the country are fully in support.

In a study published by the Journal of Educational Research, 65% of students who participated agreed that the attendance policy should be thrown in the recycle bin, and for good reason.

The idea behind an attendance policy is to prepare students for life outside of the classroom and in the workforce. In the "real-world," punctuality and attendance are everything to you being successful, I guess. But I know deep in my heart that this is a complete lie.

If being punctual and on time means success, where's my lucrative career for always being on time for Taco Tuesday? You see, there's always more to it.

But in terms of the attendance policy that universities push, it doesn't motivate students to get to class.

In most cases, it encourages quitting.

Now quitting isn't a bad thing in all cases, but when you are enrolled in a one-absence course, and both your dog and cat die creating two absences, you are almost always set up to fail. With instructors implementing drastic grade deductions, things are not looking very good if

you miss class ever again.

The aim of this practice is to penalize those who choose not to take their education seriously enough to show up for lectures. But are they not penalizing themselves enough as it is?

The missing information from that day in class, the copying of sloppy notes from a friend who decided to go, and the headache of reading through the textbook for hours for information told to others in minutes.

No student would knowingly go through this process without a good reason. And for most students, it usually is a good reason. But the idea that guidelines need to be set to keep students coming to class is unneeded.

Yes, schools pay professors money to teach students, and everyone wants to get their money's worth. But here's the thing: it's our decision.

If I decide to drown myself in debt for four years of my life to learn nothing and never go to a class, that's my decision to do so. If I want to become a professional couch potato while I attend school, it should be totally allowed to do so.

What universities fail to understand sometimes, is that we are adults and we also have responsibilities outside of the classroom.

Yes, our grades are destined to slip at some point enough classes are missed, but maybe it's for the best.

Universities should turn away from the idea of enforcing an attendance policy and just allow students to prioritize what they feel is truly most important in life.

And who knows, maybe that lab partner who missed the whole semester was just busy changing the world for the better.

Trump cannot abolish birthright citizenship

NATHAN ENGLISH
Columnist
@ThananEnglish



If you are born on American soil, you are an American citizen.

This simple statement has been true since the Fourteenth Amendment was ratified in 1868, but President Donald Trump said he is looking to overturn this 150-year-old constitutional law because of illegal immigration. Trump told reporters Aug. 21 that he and his team are seriously looking into the issue, according to Time Magazine.

Trump would like to eliminate the chances of an "anchor baby" allowing undocumented immigrants to stay in the United States. Anchor babies are children that have non-United States citizen parents that are born in the country, or in this case, the U.S., and are automatically made citizens in the U.S..

This idea to abolish birthright citizenship is not a new idea for Trump and his administration. Trump said at a rally in Columbia, Missouri, Nov. 1, 2018 he wanted to end birthright citizenship with enough support.

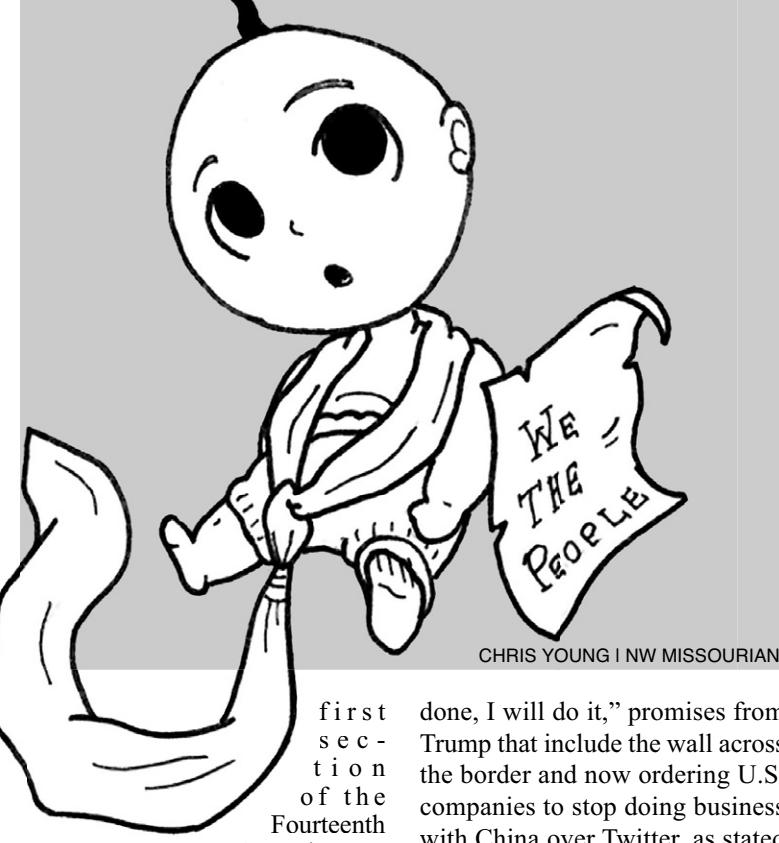
"Hundreds of thousands of children born to illegal immigrants are made automatic citizens every year because of this crazy, lunatic policy that we can end," Trump said.

This is not a "policy"—it is a federal law.

The Fourteenth Amendment clearly establishes birthright citizenship.

Section 1 of the Fourteenth Amendment states, "All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside."

The only way to change this rule would be to add an amendment to the Constitution that cancels out the



done, I will do it," promises from Trump that include the wall across the border and now ordering U.S. companies to stop doing business with China over Twitter, as stated in one of his tweets.

Flexing his Twitter game and riling up his base is all these remarks do, and it works.

Mexico was never going to pay for a wall, and Trump used that "plan" to help him secure a presidential election.

Trump knows where his bread is buttered, making large promises to fix a "massive" issue and letting his base eat up the fact that he is the "only one" that cares about protecting America.

Trump sees himself as a savior for America, and this plan to end a fundamental constitutional law that has been in effect since reconstruction is only one of the many actions to illustrate that fact.

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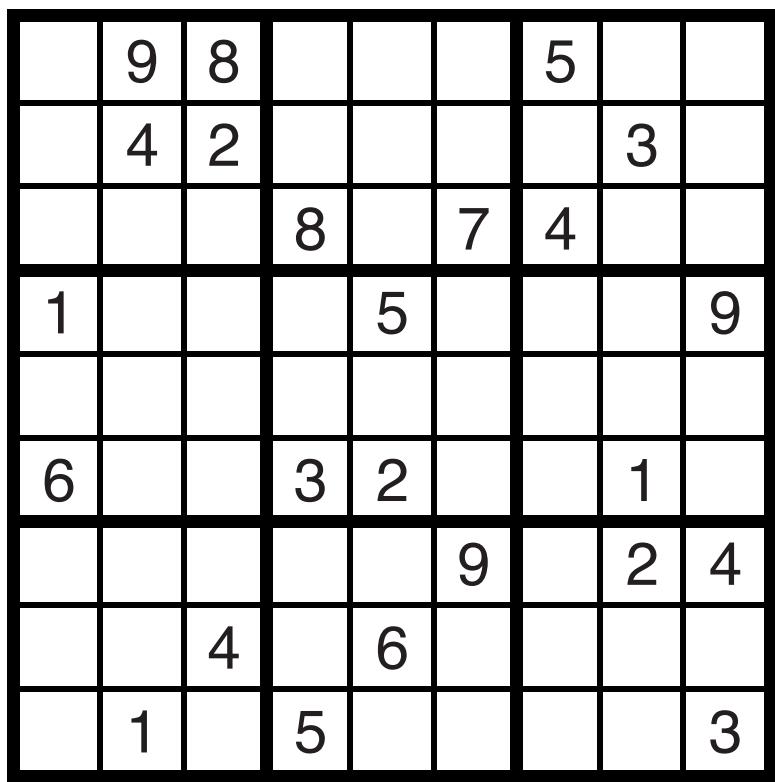
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SUDOKU

By MetroCreative



HOROSCOPE

By MetroCreative

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

If you want to get out and see the sights, you have to plan an excursion, Aries. Start planning a vacation and don't forget to invite a pal along for the trip.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Do not be quick to accept the word "no," Taurus. If you are seeking a promotion, it may take another round of negotiations to sell your position to a supervisor.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, some things are at play and you may need to gather some facts. Don't try to piece things together, but rather start at the beginning and get a comprehensive view.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

You have to hunker down and work through tasks that hold little interest for you, Cancer. Success comes from tending to all of the details, even those that are less interesting.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

Plenty of opportunities to make big changes are on the horizon, Leo. You need to figure out what it is you want to do with yourself and where to make change.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, sit quietly aside and let others talk while you listen. Listening can be a great way to learn about others as well as yourself. Use this time wisely.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, indecisiveness may cost you in the days ahead. Try to come to a decision on an important situation so you can begin moving forward once again.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Sometimes you don't see the purpose behind certain actions, Scorpio. Don't hesitate to ask questions to clear things up. Forge ahead and things will become clearer.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Sooner or later, if you try different things you are bound to stumble on the right course of action, Sagittarius. It just may take longer than you initially expected.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Don't worry if you cannot get your act together just yet, Capricorn. You will find your groove soon enough and everything will ultimately fall in place.

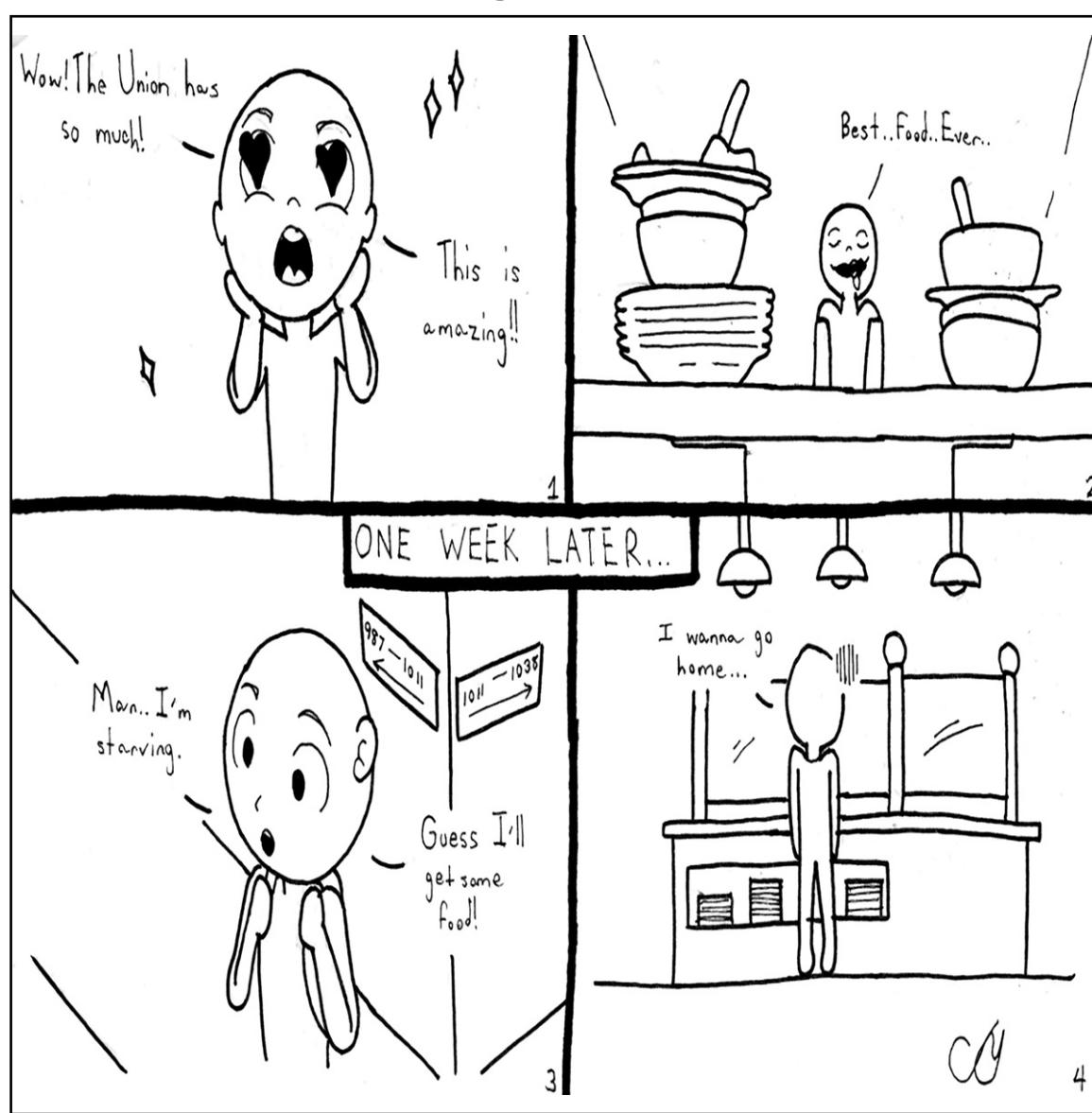
AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Some things can't be avoided forever, Aquarius. If you feel like you are running away from problems or things you don't like, you may need to confront them.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Funny things happen when you least expect them, Pisces. Just when you may have thought a situation was dire, some fun will change your opinion.

A week of eating the Union food



CHRIS YOUNG | NW MISSOURIAN

THE NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN IS ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS FOR OUR WEEKLY STROLLER

The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of the Northwest Missourian. The Stroller is a satirical opinion piece between 200-300 words about observations in student life, see A8 for an example. Email northwestmissourian@gmail.com for details or submissions.

CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

- Where to shop
- A descendant of Shem
- NBA big man "Boogie"
- Integrated circuit
- Voice
- Larry and Curly's buddy
- Beloved English princess
- Used to emphasize
- Sun worshippers want one
- Atomic # 44 (abbr.)
- Lincoln's state
- Selects
- Organs present in invertebrates
- Self-immolation by fire
- Trauma center
- Automobile
- Mustachioed actor Elliott
- Something to do at auctions
- British School
- San Diego ballplayers
- Drumming pattern
- One-time Portuguese currency
- Honor
- Beaches have it
- Folk singer DiFranco
- Electronic data processing
- Where wrestlers ply their trade
- The Peach State
- Boat post
- Omitted from printed matter
- Witnesses
- Indicates position
- Atomic # 18 (abbr.)
- Obliged to repay
- Lead prosecutor
- Sun God
- The Ocean State
- Seek opportunity without scruples
- Keeps you cool
- Achievements
- A beloved street
- Analyze minutely
- Cooks need one
- A mystic syllable
- Male parents
- Greek goddess of discord
- U.S.-based church (abbr.)
- Movies have lots of them
- Greek goddess of the dawn
- Influential naturalist
- Ancient town
- Atlanta-based rapper
- Animosities
- Pop singer
- Speak
- One who lives in northern Burma
- Not liquids
- A framework
- Peter's last name
- Plants have it
- To shorten a book
- French philosopher
- Murdered in his bathtub
- Greek letter
- A hiding place
- Crazed supporters
- Winged nut
- Doctor of Education
- Unhappy
- Popular celeb magazine
- __ and greets
- Poke holes in
- Beloved Mexican dish
- Monetary unit of Angola
- More wise
- Pouches
- Hindu's ideal man
- Type of gazelle
- Revolutions per minute
- Energy unit
- Cerium
- Canadian peninsula

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

4	9	8	6	2	7	5	3	1
3	7	5	4	1	9	6	8	2
1	6	2	8	3	5	9	7	4
6	3	7	5	4	2	1	9	8
8	1	4	3	9	6	2	5	7
2	5	9	1	7	8	3	4	6
9	2	1	7	5	4	8	6	3
5	4	6	2	8	3	7	1	9
7	8	3	9	6	1	4	2	5

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H	O	R	A	S		E	X	P	U	N	G	E
S	P	E	C	S		S	P	O	N	G	E	D

- CLUES DOWN
- Cooks need one
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 - Canadian peninsula

Sprouting joy

Student builds fresh garden for nursing home

SARAH VON SEGGERN
A&E Editor | @SeggernSarah

She walks through the beige hallways tucked inside a redbrick building, hands snug in her pockets, occasionally slowing to peer into a residents room to say hello.

Northwest senior Rachel Dreher has spent the past year and a half working as the cook at the Nodaway Nursing Home. Over the summer she took it upon herself to make the redbrick building feel more like home by adding a small garden outside.

"I just really wanted the residents to be able to have the home-grown foods, you know," Dreher said. "They miss that so much because a lot of them are farmers or they had gardens, so they're used to that."

Spending 25 to 30 hours a week at the nursing home, Dreher dedicates time between cooking and cleaning to learn about the various residents and their personalities.

For over 20 minutes, Dreher talked with resident Kathy Hansen in her room, taking every word in. She listened intently to Hansen's expressive stories about pet rocks, pulling out onions too soon and using her favorite kind of art supply, glitter, to finish pictures.

At one point, the books on Hansen's dresser fell and as Dreher gathered the various books, she said, "Kathy, you need a book holder. Bookends. I can get you some."

Dreher's older sister Emily Wilson can attest to her willingness to help and caring personality. Wilson recounted growing up in the same room with Dreher and times when Dreher would take care of her.

"She's so inspiring, even as an



GABI BROOKS | NW MISSOURIAN
Northwest senior Rachel Dreher stands in front of the Nodaway Nursing Home. Dreher has worked as a cook there for a year and a half, and this summer she took it upon herself to build a garden for residents.

older sister," Wilson said, laughing. "Just how talking to her makes me so happy, you know? I cannot be having such a great day and then she sends me something funny."

Along with being kind, Wilson said Dreher has always loved food, health and growing plants.

"She always makes everything multiply times 100," Wilson said. "Anything she touches always grows like crazy. I'm not sure how she does it."

The garden is thriving with various vegetables and fruits like bell peppers, green beans and watermelons. Dreher said to have a green thumb, it just takes proper planning and time.

The patio was transformed from a blank slate to a leafy green garden with a dash of color from the vivid flowers, which were planted by a resident.

When Administrator of the Nodaway Nursing Home Dorothy Lewis saw Dreher working on her project, she immediately wondered what Dreher was planning.

"I was kind of skeptical, but you know, you don't know. But then when she started bringing all this stuff out, and I said, 'Child, what are you doing?' — 'You'll see,'" Lewis said. "And I thought, 'What?' But she did that all on her own. She thought it was a great idea, and she just did it."

Dreher began work on the garden during May and worked hard to use the resources around her to create the garden container. After pull-

ing the pallets apart, she reused the wood to build the container.

While building the containers, she even factored in the height since some of the residents use wheelchairs and walkers. She lined the inside of the containers with cardboard and then a trash bag to keep the soil together.

She collected milk jugs from the kitchen and used them to hold wildflowers and spices such as basil.

"She started saving milk jugs out of the kitchen and I thought, 'Girl, what in the world are you going to do with milk jugs?'" Lewis said. "And I thought, 'We are not going to align the patio with milk jugs.' That was my thought and then she started strapping them to the pallet things and it's like, that is so cool. She is very creative, very imaginative."

As Dreher continued to work on her summer project, Lewis saw her motivation and passion for helping others shine.

"Some people discount the elderly. They do, which they shouldn't. But they need us more than just about anybody, and she gets that. I mean most people, this is their end days, so why not make

them happy? And she picked up on that," Lewis said. "She's a real sweetheart. I almost feel like she's one of my kids."

When Dreher finally finished



GABI BROOKS | NW MISSOURIAN
Making the most of the resources around her, Dreher used old milk cartons to plant wildflowers and spices in.

the garden, her dedication inspired others to help in their own ways. Lewis said there were families who donated wind chimes to make it feel more like home. Even Dreher's pastor donated potted tomato plants.

"That's how you know you've done something is when they say, 'Oh, you know, this is home now,'" Lewis said. "But it takes everybody doing something to make that happen."



GABI BROOKS | NW MISSOURIAN
Dreher built a garden made of wood pallets outside of the Nodaway Nursing Home. The garden consists of tomatoes, green beans, watermelon, bell peppers, cilantro and basil. Dreher built the garden at a height accessible for residents with wheelchairs.

Local vineyard hosts harvest event

CORIE HERTZOG
Chief Reporter | @coffeeegilmore97

On the outskirts of Maryville, Missouri, past where Icon Road turns from pavement to gravel, is a small vineyard.

Backyard Vine and Wine is a local, family-owned and operated vineyard. What started as a retirement project for patriarch Carl Christensen, now stands at five acres of grape vines. With harvest season here, the family reached out to the community to help harvest bunches of red grapes.

The event was held by Carl's daughter, Stephanie Christensen.

"The first plants were planted back in 2008," Stephanie Christensen said. "It started with one plot then to another plot. We finally ran out of plots. Now we have just a hair over 26,000 plants."

The vineyard tries to keep the harvesting to just family, but with so many plants, they started inviting the community to join them two years ago.

Armed with bunch cutters and five-gallon buckets, roughly a dozen people came to help the Christensen family collect the fruits of their labor this harvest. Volunteers were friends, some students and some who saw the Facebook announcements.

Shelby Trussel is a graduate student at Northwest who worked with Stephanie Christensen at the Veronica Luke Accounting agency and came out to help her friend.

"I've been out here a few times," Trussel said. "Once for a concert over the summer, a few times with friends to go to the winery, and when I heard about this I was like, 'I wanna come help pick grapes and be part of the process.' It's a cool morning and it's a pretty simple process. It's really all about the experience."

Trussel also brought along her roommate, wildlife ecology junior



Northwest junior Carmella Rackers picks grapes Aug. 24 at Backyard Wine and Vine.

SYDNEY GARNER | NW MISSOURIAN

Carmella Rackers, to give harvesting a try.

"I think there is something really relaxing and exciting about waking up early and getting to do something and being outside and doing something you don't normally get to do," Rackers said. "It's something I'm probably not going to do often. I don't plan on having grapes. I probably won't ever make wine."

As a family-owned operation, the Christensen family also prides themselves on fermenting their wine in a natural way.

"Basically, we take the grapes off the plants, then we crush them," Stephanie Christensen said, as she stood by the stove, peeling potatoes for the lunch her family promised their volunteers. "If they needed pressed, we press them. Whites get pressed immediately after getting crushed. Reds ferment right on their skins. Then they ferment. We try to do as much natural filtration as possible."

Stephanie Christensen said the process takes about two rackings, another term for wine filtration, by moving wine from one barrel to another through gravity rather than a pump. The racking process varies in duration. The Christensen's capped their last bottle from the 2018 harvest this month.

It's the natural fermentation that is part of the reason the family asks for volunteers. Though machines are convenient, they can be expensive and make the natural yeast production for the house wine much harder, if not impossible. If the bunches are hand-harvested, then it's easier to spot spoiled fruit and prevent it from souring the barrel.

Stephanie Christensen's sister

Ruby Brownlee explained what makes a good bottle of red wine.

"It needs to be full flavored and not watered down," Brownlee said, layering potatoes, ham, cheese and other toppings in a dish to bake for scalloped potatoes. "Personally, I like it to be sweet."

The vineyard produces white wine, red wine and rosés. While the vineyard has thousands of plants, the volunteers only had to focus on two long rows of grapes. To help celebrate the harvest, the family also hosted a concert by Phil Vandell the same night.

THE STROLLER:

Your Bearcat wants you to stop objectifying women

I am not a walking, talking sex object.

I shouldn't be made to feel so uncomfortable in my own space that I wear jackets and layers to avoid you looking at me like a piece of steak.

I get it; I'm one of the only girls in a group of guys. I should be used to the jokes about it by now. The thing is, what is happening aren't jokes.

Making comments about my "rack" isn't a joke.

Insinuating I use sex as a weapon or tool all the time isn't a joke.

Saying you'll buy me a vibrator

for my birthday isn't a joke.

Saying you'd buy my bath water isn't a joke.

Trying to make me feel guilty for not wanting to date you isn't a joke.

Trying to trick me into going on dates with you isn't a joke.

What makes it worse is our whole group knows what is happening and you know it too and you use it to your advantage. You purposely make these comments during times we can't call you out on your misogynistic, perverted ways. You say you fight for women's rights but you don't even treat

me like a person.

I'm done with trying to justify your behavior. I am done with feeling guilty for turning you down. I am not some timid, scared little girl. I am a strong woman and I will not tolerate being treated as anything less.

I am not a walking, talking sex object.

I am a woman and you will respect me.

The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of The Northwest Missourian.

Campus organization provides free feminine hygiene products

ANGEL TRINH
Chief Reporter | @acuteanglewrite

The Board Game Cafe door chimes as Northwest faculty and staff gather with community members to discuss fundraising methods and assembling pad packages at the WeGotcha! meeting at 11 a.m. each second Saturday of the month.

WeGotcha! provides free sanitary products in women's restrooms at Northwest. The products are presented in baskets which allow students to take one when they need it while inviting them to donate one when they can.

"It started about a year ago when somebody read about period poverty and the fact that some women just don't have the wherewithal to spend money on sanitary products," Northwest Librarian Carolyn Johnson said. "It's been mainly donor supplied from lots of women on campus who work here."

Other women who helped start WeGotcha! last fall included Jacquie Lamer, Deb Toomey, Helen Konstantopoulos and Elyssa Ford. More than 40 people now help with the project.

"It's just really a whole village of women who are doing this," Johnson said. "It's very empowering and a very positive thing for the women on this campus."

WeGotcha! also donates feminine products to the Northwest Food Pantry so students in need can get a month's supply.

"We don't want students to miss class," Johnson said. "We don't want students to have a study group



Northwest sophomore and Hy-Vee employee Amberlea Auffert serves Maryville residents Andrea and Sam Mason who attended the WeGotcha! dinner Aug. 22.

Market Grille. Hy-Vee donates 5% of the proceeds made during the three hours. WeGotcha! members also accept donations at the events.

The most recent WeGotcha! dinner was Aug. 21. To celebrate the start of the semester, Hy-Vee donated \$1 for each \$6 or \$7 meal. With donations and raffle entries, the event raised \$292.

Northwest Payroll Manager Barb Walk won the raffle.

Hy-Vee Kitchen Manager Sara Tompkins immediately wanted to help WeGotcha! when it reached out to her for fundraiser ideas.

ZION CHAMBLE
Chief Reporter | @chamblezion

The 20th century was brought to life by The Lark & Loon, an Arkansas folk duo, Aug. 23 in the Ron Houston Center for the Performing Arts.

The Lark & Loon duo of Jeff Rolfzen and Rocky-Steen Rolfzen performed remakes of early 20th century music for Maryville residents and students.

Assistant professor Debra Brown invited the folk duo to campus and was excited for the influence the duo would leave on students who attended.

"It's really hard when you start playing authentic music from the '20s and '30s to hear those old recordings and relate to it," Brown said. "Hearing it live, though, really brings it to life."

The Lark & Loon performed various classic songs like "St. Louis Blues" originally performed by Bessie Smith, and an original song called "Up on a Cloud."

"It's kind of a testament to the music," Jeff Rolfzen said. "Those early songs are so embedded in our culture, that no matter who you are or where you go, you'll run into someone who knows like a third of all folk songs and not even know it."

Sophomore Tyrone Thornton said he was enthralled by the performance.

"I never really knew where some of those songs originated from," Thornton said. "But I mean, their spin on the classics were cool, and I really liked the funky outfits they were wearing."

Thornton also showed interest

in the instruments used by the folk duo, describing them as something people would find in a museum.

The outfits and instruments used by the Lark & Loon are direct replicas of instruments used by bands and artists of the time period.

"This particular guitar was built in 1936 in Chicago during the Great Depression," Jeff Rolfzen said. "And it used to belong to a guy by the name of Blind Boy Fuller, a prominently well-known blues guitarist."

The Lark & Loon duo also donned outfits involving denim overalls, loose fitting clothes and bird feathers as a way to pay respect to the time period.

Students conversed with the duo after the show sharing laughs and advice.

"It is so important to listen to old music and learn the history of it," Rocky-Steen Rolfzen said. "This is some of the most important music in the entire world, and a lot of the old recordings are disappearing, and it's a freaking tragedy."

The Lark & Loon duo finished their performance by encouraging the audience to preserve the music of the early '20s and to incorporate it into their daily lives.

Sophomore Isaiah Stowers said he was very interested in the duo's portrayal of the music.

"I mean it's pretty dope that they're able to revive the music from that time," Stowers said. "I didn't really ever think about the music from that time but they did a pretty solid job at performing it."

The Lark & Loon said they will be back to Maryville as the audience was very engaging and responsive to their performance.

COLUMN
CONTINUED FROM A12

Northwest's Week 4 loss to the Bronchos last season in no way derailed its campaign — the Bearcats rattled off five wins in a row after falling asleep at the wheel in Edmond, Oklahoma, last September in that 10-point loss to the Bronchos. In some ways, the loss may have served as a spark for Northwest, but it also served as a hole to climb out of, installing an uphill climb to the No. 1 seed.

Northwest has won six national titles — more than any other team in Division II — but the Bearcats have never done so without home-field advantage for at least one round of the postseason. Among its 10 title game appearances, Osborne pointed out, Northwest has only opened the playoffs as a visiting team once, in 2005.

In short, the Bearcats need home-field advantage to be successful in the postseason. That's why dropping throwaway games to teams like Central Oklahoma in September is inconsequential, yet paramount.

"The times (we've) had success in the playoffs, (we're) typically the No. 1 seed and we get a bye," Osborne said. "You use that bye to heal back up. It's very rare for Northwest to go to the national championship game just playing on the road. ... You've got to take care of business one week at a time during the season. Otherwise, bigger picture, it's not going to matter."

For Northwest, as with every team, the challenge at hand is to chart its way through the MIAA gauntlet unscathed, carefully stepping its way toward what they hope is a postseason birth coupled with a first-round bye week.

The Bearcats will have to do so without Shawn Bane Jr. and Josh Caldwell, offensive playmakers who moved on to the NFL. They'll have to do so without Jack Richards and Anthony Lane, too, both defensive anchor points who graduated last spring. But the news isn't all bad.

Northwest still has one of the top-ranked defenses in the country. The Bearcats have Division I transfer Justin Rankin set to play alongside senior Isaiah Strayhorn at running back. They've got a bevy of offensive playmakers, including LaTroy Harper, Marqus Andrews and Imoni Donadelie, ready to shine following Bane's graduation.

The Bearcats still have Braden Wright, last year's MIAA Freshman of the Year playing quarterback, and they've got an offensive coordinator in Osborne who's ready to implement Wright and company to their fullest potential. The Bearcats aren't in bad shape, by any means.

The Green and White scrimmage Thursday is the start of an uphill battle for the Bearcats, one where history says they've got to be excellent every week, that they have got to secure a first-round bye if they want to bring home a title.

But history also says they'll be just fine, or at least, that's the expectation.



MADI NOLTE | NW MISSOURIAN

Shirtless 'Cats eager for new year

JD WESSEL
Chief Reporter | @JDWessel123

With every year comes a new season of Northwest sports, and another season of the Shirtless Bearcats tradition. The pride of the school can oftentimes be determined by the showing from the fans at each sporting event.

Some of the best-traditioned and toughest opponents are the ones with the most supportive student section. Schools like Texas A&M, Wisconsin, Penn State and LSU might come to mind because of the magnitude and history of the schools.

As far as Division II sports go, Northwest is one of the more well-respected fan bases in the nation. The Bearcats are surrounded with a population of nearly 12,000 people in the town of Maryville, Mis-

souri, and are always around the top ranks of the country in average attendance for home games.

The Shirtless Bearcats are known for leading the student section by example. They show up to every football game hours before to enjoy the pregame grill outs, paint themselves and make sure they get their front row spots re-served before game time.

Nolan Brooks, president of the 2019-20 Shirtless Bearcats, is looking to expand on the size of the Shirtless Bearcats for this year.

"It's all about getting people excited to go to the game and cheer on

their team instead of buying a ticket and just watching," Brooks said. "We have a lot of winning teams here at Northwest, and we should all show as much support as we can to the athletes to help build our brand."

Brooks said he plans on expanding the amount of sports they attend, admitting they didn't get out to as many sports as they should have last year. He also said he has a vision of some new designs for lettering on their chests for each game when they get painted up.

"I am trying to make each game special this year because Northwest

has a chance to have some very talented and highly rated teams," Brooks said.

The Shirtless Bearcats have a lot of pride in what they do, and they consider themselves the spirit of the Northwest student section. There are some memories that they said they won't forget anytime soon.

"Painting for the Fort Hays game last year was one of my favorite memories as a Shirtless Bearcat. It was a heated game with a lot of emotions and twists in the game," Northwest alumnus Tucker Bailey said.

As the start of football season approaches, Brooks is still assembling people for the position. He hopes to bring some new traditions and excitement to the Shirtless Bearcats this season to help support all of the athletes on campus.

TICKETS CONTINUED FROM A12

Orton and Athletics expect the increased convenience for fans to be two-fold. Students won't have to wait in line at cashiering and fans won't be required to wait for the ticket box offices to open two hours before game time. This projected decrease in line-waiting should make entering sporting venues on gameday an easier experience.

Similar to employees in the University's cashiering office, Joshua Williams, a student employee at Bearcat Stadium and Bearcat Arena who is responsible for scanning tickets upon fan entry, doesn't foresee much change to his gameday duties.

"The e-tickets won't affect the job," Williams said. "Most people had them last year and I assume tickets can still be gotten at the ticket booth. So the job doesn't change."

Athletics hopes the move to e-tickets does spark a change in stu-

dent attendance across all sporting events, Orton said. The expectation is that an easier ticket-buying process and gameday entry will lead to more student spectators at Bearcat Stadium, among other venues.

"That's kind of our hope; we want to try to get more student

engagement in all of our athletic events," Orton said. "We're hoping that this is a way for them to have easier access to that so that they don't have to wait in lines anymore to get their tickets: it's right there."

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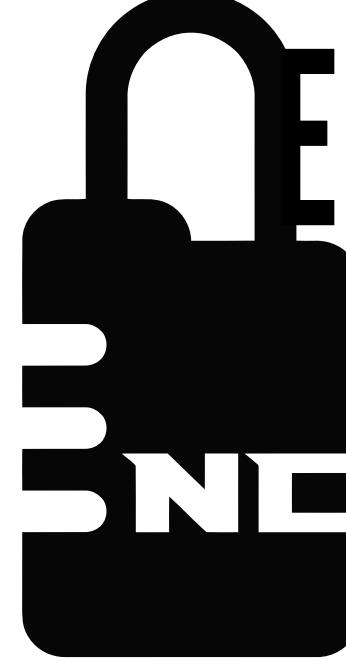


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Two 'Hounds grow into roles as 'Cats

JD WESSEL
Chief Reporter | @JDWessel123

About this time a year ago, wide receiver Eli Dowis and running back Tyler Houchin were gearing up for their senior season for the Maryville Spoofhounds.

Both had intentions of bringing home another state championship for the town of Maryville to repeat the 2017 state championship they led the Spoofhounds to.

Last November, Houchin announced his verbal commitment to the Bearcats via Twitter, getting an outpouring of support from the fans of Northwest Football. Houchin was another player to join the tradition of "Townie" football players, playing for the Bearcats.

Nearly a month later, Dowis announced his commitment via Twitter. Dowis joined a talented, athletic 2019 class with his Spoofhound teammate Houchin, two guys who have been friends ever since they could remember.

"Playing with an athlete like Eli in high school was great, and I am grateful we both got to go through this process together," Houchin said.

Both players were two of the Spoofhounds' top targets, helping lead them to four straight district championships, two state championship appearances and also earning themselves all-state honors.

Even with all of the accolades over their four years at Maryville High School, they knew the transition wouldn't be any sort of walk in the park; it would be just the beginning of their time as Bearcats.

"In high school, you could get away with not going 100% every single rep or every single drill and there would be no consequence," Dowis said. "In a lot of ways, it feels like a fresh start: new training, new plays, new teammates and in some ways, a new work ethic."

Dowis and Houchin helped the



Spoofhounds collect a remarkable 51-6 record in the four-year span of being a part of the team, and commented that the Spoofhounds are more similar to the Bearcats than different.

"The fanbase and supporters in Maryville are second to none," Houchin said. "We have the whole town behind all of us players on the team, and being from Maryville makes it even more special when we get to play for our hometown."

The amount of support from the town of Maryville is no secret. Northwest was ranked in the top 10 in the official NCAA Division II football attendance stats last season, averaging 7,727 fans per home game last season.

Houchin found that many players at Northwest are willing to extend a hand to newer players such as himself. He said a player he has learned a lot from just from practice has been Marqus Andrews.

"Marqus is a player who knows the system very well and helps me with film, what steps to use, and what to do in order to be successful in the future," Houchin said.

The transition from high school to the collegiate level hasn't been much of an issue for Dowis and Houchin, as they both have been living just off campus their whole lives. Dowis made it clear that his No. 1 priority will be school.

"First and foremost is getting a college degree; I would love to play past college, but I know it doesn't always work out that way," Dowis said.

Dowis and Houchin seem to have some confidence, accompanied with goals in mind, going into each of their similar yet different college careers. While the future is to be determined for each of them, the townies both know they have the city of Maryville behind them the whole way.



GABI BROOKS | NW MISSOURIAN
Freshman wide receiver Eli Dowis, selected to the first-team all-MEC three times as a Maryville Spoofhound, adds his skill set to the 2019 Bearcat recruiting class.



SYDNEY GARNER | NW MISSOURIAN

Junior wide receiver Alec Tatum plays in the Green and White scrimmage Aug. 22 at Bearcat Stadium. Tatum finished last season with 37 receptions.

Fall camp sets stage for playing time battle

MADDISYN GERHARDT
Chief Reporter | @maddigerhardt

With the graduating class of 2019 winning two NCAA Division II National Championships, three MIAA championships and extending the schools winning-season streak to 24, the Northwest football team is using this year's fall camp to consider putting younger players in starting positions.

As the season draws near, the pressure to find young and talented players builds. Daily practices and fall camp are the key to finding new players to fill an almost empty and upperclassman heavy position.

"It's fun to see the new guys step up and try to fill that role," junior wide receiver Alec Tatum said. "It's a challenge for all the



new guys, and we're all just battling for a spot. It's just challenging, and it's good for us."

As the 2019 recruiting class brings in four transfers and three true freshmen at the wide receiver position, the battle for playing time is on the line. With transfers like juniors Dawson Graham and Kaden Davis, the wide receiver position has the most playing time up for grabs.

This change at the wide receiver position has shifted pressure onto all of the other starting spots as talented groups continue to come in year after year.

"Yeah positions are open, but you have to look at it like every position is open," sophomore quarterback Braden Wright said. "You have to perform every week. You have to work hard every day so you keep your spot. The guys that

have come in at semester or during the summer, they come in and they've been battling."

With roughly 40 recruits suiting up for the Bearcats this fall, the returning players are pushed to continue their success to keep a starting spot. While a select few true freshmen will be pulled up to challenge the veterans, many newcomers are starting to realize that their best competition this season is the players beside them.

"They were recruited here because they can play at this level. They were an advantage with a few changes in our playbook that we made," Wright said. "Everyone adds value to the team. No one ever takes away from the team. Especially at the receiver position, we're really deep right now, so we got plenty of guys in there competing every day."

Though many past players, like 2019 graduates Shawn Bane Jr. and Austin Eskew, have made their presence known since walking onto Northwest's campus, a majority of recruits have to wait and learn what Bearcat football is like before they can make a name for themselves.

"Starting from recruiting, they show you that they have a history of winning," freshman quarterback Alex Roush said. "When they show you that they win, and they show you that they work hard, and in the end, it could pay off with a national championship, it really gets the recruits in."

While the 2019 season will bring many fans curious as to who will fill the top string positions, the success of future seasons is the focus for much of the football coaching and staff. Every year brings new

changes and difficulty, but with the help of recruits and coaches constantly committing to Northwest, the team expects nothing but success for the future.

Co-offensive coordinator Joel Osborn said Northwest football coaches have been using recruitment to build depth not only in the shallow wide receiving position, but to bring competitive quarterbacks, athletic offensive linemen and winning running backs to the squad for future success.

"The first thing we notice is competitiveness," Osborn said. "Once they get here, they're going to have to compete because we bring in great players every year. Just the ability to take coaching and be great at their craft. Those are the type of guys that are going to separate themselves from everyone else."

-BRADEN WRIGHT

“

Yeah, positions are open, but you have to look at it like every position is open. You have to perform every week. You have to work hard every day so you keep your spot.”



JON WALKER | NW MISSOURIAN

Senior wide receiver Tate Oglesby, who scored seven touchdowns with 576 yards on 26 receptions last year, catching a pass in the Spoofhounds' jamboree Aug. 23 against Center High School. Oglesby was responsible for three touchdowns on the night, giving the 'Hounds a total record of 1-0-2.

Spoofhounds prepare for revenge tour

JON WALKER
Sports Editor | @ByJonWalker



As the long-dreaded offseason has finally reached its last leg, Maryville football is preparing to kick off its season Aug. 30.

Much like the other successful football program in Maryville, the Spoofhounds are held to high standards, year in and year out. The Spoofhounds open their sea-

son Aug. 30 in the Kickoff Classic at William Jewell University against Blair Oaks, who handed the 'Hounds one of their two losses a season ago.

The tradition of a program, Maryville in particular, can be a long-lasting message that's implemented to keep the team as one of the top high school programs in the state of Missouri.

'Hounds' coach Matt Webb

preaches "tradition never graduates," but despite retaining a rich tradition, one thing does leave the Spoofhounds after every season — that's, of course — the seniors.

Two former Spoofhounds, both now Bearcats, left their mark on Maryville. These athletes, Tyler Houchin and Eli Dowis, performed on a regular basis for Maryville.

Senior Tate Oglesby is looking forward to stepping up to the task at hand in Week 1 despite losing the duo.

"We've just got to keep our mindset right," Oglesby said. "If we go in thinking that we're at an advantage or disadvantage, I mean, (Blair Oaks) will show us that we really are. They're a great football team; they won state last year. ... We're just trying to put (the work) in this week, just keeping our minds right and taking care of ourselves, then going out and doing what we can do on Friday."

The Spoofhounds' 2018 campaign ended with a loss to the eventual state champions, Trinity Catholic, in the Class 3 semifinals. That final loss gave the 'Hounds a final record of 12-2. Despite winning another district championship, the season fell short of the ultimate goal.

Maryville also returns junior quarterback Ben Walker, who completed 39 passes for 847 yards and 13 touchdowns. Oglesby had his hand in the passing game as well, accounting for 576 yards with seven touchdowns on 26 catches.

Deon Metezier joins Oglesby at the receiver position for the upcoming season. Metezier contributed to the passing game as well with 186 yards and two touchdowns with six catches.

"I have all faith in them (Oglesby and Metezier)," Walker said. "I can just throw it up, really, and anytime they come down with it. ...

We've been working for a while now, so we have good chemistry, and I just have all of the faith in the world in those guys."

Maryville will be reacquainted with an old friend this season, Class 2 football. After the districts were reset, it was official the 'Hounds would be competing in the Class 2 playoff bracket. The last time that happened — 2009 — they were state champions.

The Spoofhounds have a target on their back heading into this season, but that's to be expected of a program at the top of the competitive ranks every year. The 'Hounds seem to be up for the challenge.

"(Playing Blair Oaks) is a great opportunity to play a really good opponent," Spoofhound coach Matt Webb said. "They went undefeated last year; the last team to beat them was us in the 2017 semifinals. ... It's going to be a heck of an opponent and a great game."

Maryville football rides 61 home game win streak

JON WALKER
Sports Editor | @ByJonWalker



The year is 2010. Barack Obama is about half-way through his first term, Buzz and Woody are covering movie screens across America with Toy Story 3 and Apple just released the first iPad. Oh, and the Maryville Spoofhounds just lost a home football game — something that hasn't happened since.

The Spoofhounds, known for their postseason success, were heading into the fall of 2010 with the goal of another state championship on their mind. This ideology, coming from a Chris Holt-led football team, was the same motivation behind the 'Hounds year in and year out. Much like any other season at Maryville High School, the expectations around the team were high.

As everybody across the nation was bopping to Eminem's new song "Love the Way You Lie," Holt was getting the 'Hounds ready to open their season on the road against Lawson. The Cardinals, having their season ended the previous year by the eventual state champion Spoofhounds, were looking for revenge to open their 2010 campaign.

Shockingly enough for the Spoofhounds, Lawson was able to avenge their loss from nearly 10 months earlier. This loss, unusual for Maryville, was the spark that gave Holt's squad the boost they needed for the upcoming weeks.

Week 2 of the season was the home debut for Maryville against the Smithville Warriors. The 'Hounds were able to rattle off wins in their next five games, leaving their mark in the Midland Empire Conference once again. Not only did the Spoofhounds win these games, they embarrassed opponents; the closest fi-

nal score being a 13-point victory over a half-decent Benton Cardinal team.

Heading into week seven of the season, the Spoofhounds were 3-0 in the 'Hound Pound that season. Not only would this week include added pressure, with playing powerhouse conference foe Savannah, but it would be accompanied by something unfamiliar to the 'Hounds — a loss at home.

Aside from Lawson, Savannah was the other opponent that gave the Spoofhounds a good matchup every season. On this particular Friday night in 2010, a tough matchup was accompanied with a 41-7 beatdown for the 'Hounds.

Holt, as well as many of the Spoofhound players, decided to dedicate themselves to protecting the 'Hound Pound at all costs.

"Well first, we were always tough to play at home," Holt said. "After year one, we just won a lot of football games. ... I think the kids started to value the idea that we were playing at our place, I think we realized how important it was to just win at home."

The Spoofhounds went on to win another four straight, including two home games, one of those being in the first round of the playoffs.

An eventual end would come to the 2010 campaign when Holt and the 'Hounds were ousted by the soon to be state champions Richmond High School, in Maryville. This was the last time a home football crowd at Maryville High School would experience this feeling for a long time — defeat.

In 2011, which was Holt's last year at the helm of the Spoofhounds, started off with a convincing 48-0 home win over Lawson, giving the Cardinals a taste of what they hand-



JONATHAN BAKER, former Spoofhound quarterback from 2011-2012, attempts to avoid a Cardinal defender against Lawson High School. Baker was 10-for-19 and threw for three touchdowns. The Spoofhounds won 40-0.

ed the 'Hounds a season prior.

Maryville was able to string together a 9-1 record in the regular season, a lone loss from the hands of Savannah being the only blemish in the right column. Out of the five games the "Hound Pound" hosted that year, not a single time did they witness the Spoofhounds accept defeat.

The 2011 campaign was ended, yet again from Richmond in the second round, this time being on the road.

Fast forward eight seasons later, this high school in a small town

located in the northwest corner of Missouri has something riding on them aside from their high expectations, the fact that it's been 61 games since the city of Maryville witnessed the Spoofhounds lose in the 'Hound Pound.

The 2019 season slates the 'Hounds with four home games, the first one of those being week four against St. Pius X (Kansas City).

Although leaving after starting the streak, Holt knows how special it is that it's still alive to this day.

"It's really, really impressive,"

Holt said. "Coach Webb has done a great job of improving what we started back then. ... Football in the town of Maryville is important, it's nice to see that (Maryville) is still having success."

Sixty-one consecutive home wins later leaves things that drastically differ from when the streak started. Donald Trump is nearing the end of his first term as president, Buzz and Woody have ended their journey together with Toy Story 4, and the iPad is far more advanced than it was nine years ago.

FRESH START:

JON WALKER
Sports Editor | @ByJonWalker

Every athlete has a program that is fit for them, whether that's playing for Nick Saban, Dabo Swinney or any other Power Five school. For others, it's as simple as finding their niche at a Group Five school. Although not being the dream for most, former Kent State running back Justin Rankin finds himself ending his collegiate career in Division II, as a Northwest Bearcat.

Coming out of high school, Rankin had a résumé full of accolades, something that not too many athletes are capable of saying. Despite being a multi-sport athlete, he found his success to come in the fall, on the football field.

Many children across the country find themselves starting football at a young age, Rankin was no different. The Oberlin, Ohio, native began his playing days when he was in third grade. From then on, Rankin grew fonder of the game of football, but didn't fully realize his true love for the game until his freshman year at Elyria Catholic High School.

"I never really thought I'd end up (in college football)," Rankin said. "My sophomore year when I started to get offers, I was just like, 'Wow. I can really go to college just to play football.'"

Rankin, who was selected to three All-Ohio First teams, earned all-state honors in track and field and rushed for 28 touchdowns across his final two seasons for Elyria Catholic, had an unofficial visit to Indiana as early as his sophomore year.

A piece to the puzzle that Rankin struggled to fill was one of the most important parts of being a student-athlete — the grades. The positives simply were not enough to outweigh the negative, despite Rankin's ability on the field.

"Man, I really enjoyed the Buffalo visit; that was a big visit that I liked," Rankin said. "I didn't have the Indiana offer at the time but I enjoyed (the visit) — yeah, that was a good one. They were going to offer but I had bad grades so."

So a lengthy recruiting trail, including an offer from Western Michigan and the visit to Buffalo, Rankin settled on staying in his home state, enrolling at Kent State in January 2016.

Rankin had an immediate impact on the program, logging significant playing time as a freshman. He came in second on the team in total rushing with 511 yards and three touchdowns on 108 carries.

His impact carried over into the next two seasons as well. In Rankin's three seasons as a Golden Flash, he compiled a total of 1,575 rushing yards with 10 touchdowns. His best season rushing came this past year as a junior at Kent State, having rushed for 574 yards and four touchdowns. Along with this, he added 127 receiving yards and a touchdown.

In a difficult decision for Rankin,



GABI BROOKS | NW MISSOURIAN

Senior running back and transfer student Justin Rankin joins the Bearcats for his final season of collegiate football.

a new coaching staff, alongside other things, led to him reopening his recruitment for his final season of collegiate football earlier this year.

"It was one of those things where we just didn't really see eye-to-eye," Rankin said. "It was a hard decision, but I thought it was a better decision for my future."

Rankin officially became a Bearcat in February, on national signing day, when he inked his transfer papers to come to Northwest.

Traditionally speaking, the Bearcats have a program of "home-grown" athletes, which means that seldom transfers are accepted into the program. Graduate Assistant

running back coach Zach Martin knew Rankin was fit for a program like the Bearcats.

"We had a connection with someone at Kent State, they had nothing but good things to say about him," Martin said. "By then, a guy that's played at that level, we figured he could play here. ... We brought him up for a visit in December — I actually picked him up from the airport. We got to talking, and I could just tell that he was our type of guy."

In this upcoming season for the Bearcats, Rankin is hoping to add meaningful reps of experience to the running back position.

Along with senior Isaiah Strayhorn and sophomore Raymond Thomas, Martin added that the running back room has the potential to be the most impactful position this season for Northwest.

Although an unlikely turn of events for a once Division I athlete, Rankin comes to Northwest embracing the culture that has been in the program for what seems like forever.

"I just want to grow as a team," Rankin said. "Obviously, the ultimate goal is to win a natty, but I just want to see us really grow as a team and get better each and every day — day in and day out."

Orton cited Northwest football's Oct. 12 matchup with Pittsburg State at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, Missouri, as an example of the future of events ticketing. All attendees, regardless of whether they're a student or not, will be required to use an e-ticket in accordance with the Chiefs' policy implemented at Arrowhead.

"Our fans will get a taste of that (Oct. 12)," Orton said. "I know that there are always pros and cons, where not everybody agrees always with one way or another. But that will at least give (fans) an idea of what that is, and hopefully, we're able to move in that direction eventually down the road."

Athletics is beginning what will be a complete switch to mobile and e-ticketing with students because students tend to be more tech-savvy, Orton said. Athletics also hopes the move, which will save students the trip to Northwest's cashiering office, will appeal to students as a convenience factor, allowing cashiering to focus on non-student ticketing and other processes, Orton said.

"We've always had that option; we've just never really promoted it to a great extent," Orton said. "I know there's been some people who have taken advantage of the e-ticket already through our University ticket system. Now, we're trying to get more of the word out."

The move is a step toward a more efficient ticketing process, said Kiersten Orton, who serves as an assistant athletic director in an administrative role for Athletics. The department made the move, one focused on convenience, after several months of evaluation, Orton said.

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Multiple Northwest cashiering employees offered minimal comment, saying they didn't expect the particulars of their job to change with the move to e-ticketing.

"It's just efficient," Kaley Coulter, an accounts receivable supervisor in Northwest's Office of the Bursar, said. "Making moves in the future direction here."

A vast majority of Northwest's fan base across all sports has traditionally used a paper ticket, Orton said. In some ways, the move for Athletics and the University is a step forward in the evolving realm of event-ticketing.

ANDREW WEGLEY
Managing Editor | @andrewwegley



All students aiming to attend Northwest Athletics games and contests will be required to use an e-ticket starting this fall sports season, Northwest Athletics and the University announced Aug. 21.

Students will be able to load the ticket onto their phones or download the tickets in a PDF format and bring a printed copy to the gate at their selected sporting event, according to Athletics. Students will no longer be able to redeem their free tickets through the University's cashiering office.

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SEE TICKETS | A9

Division I transfer finds niche with Bearcats

Bearcats in charge of season's outcome

ANDREW WEGLEY
Managing Editor
@andrewwegley



College football season in Maryville, Missouri, comes with a certain degree of expectation. That's just the reality of the sport here, one that is often unrealistic, bordering on ridiculous.

It is what it is. If you win a lot of football games, people will expect you to keep winning a lot of football games — something that Northwest football has done more than any other Division II team this decade.

The Bearcats are 107-16 since 2010. They've made the playoffs every year since 2003. They've won four national titles since 2000 and have only failed to make the postseason twice in that same stretch. They were selected first in the 2019 MIAA media preseason poll, and they came in ranked No. 6 among all DII programs in the 2019 American Football Association Poll.

The expectations for this team, it's worth repeating, are perpetually elevating. So it's easy — and maybe even fair — for fans and students to expect another national championship run after a two-year title game drought. Ahead of the Green and White scrimmage, Northwest is set to play Aug. 29, I'm here to tell you it's entirely possible that the Bearcats could march to McKinney ISD Stadium this December and bring back the NCAA Division II National Championship Trophy.

But they have to get there first.

If Northwest's offense plays like it did a season ago, the Bearcats won't make it to McKinney. That sounds like a bizarre claim, and on the surface, it is. Northwest's offense averaged 36.6 points per game last season, a number that tells the story of a robust offense. But a closer look reveals more.

Why it took Northwest the full 11-weeks to clinch a share of the MIAA title last season, why the team failed to host a playoff game, and ultimately, why it didn't advance further in the post-season can be boiled down to three games, three numbers, three halves of football.

The Bearcats scored 3 points in the first half of a 31-21 loss to Central Oklahoma Sept. 22. Then, with an opportunity to clinch the MIAA outright, the Bearcats managed just 10 first-half points in an eventual 17-16 loss to Fort Hays State Nov. 3.

Finally, with the season on the line in the second round of the playoffs, the Bearcats scored just one touchdown in the first half against Ferris State Nov. 24, entering the break facing a 13-point deficit. They went on to lose by 6 points.

The goal here is not to paint the Bearcats as choke artists — they made noble comeback efforts that fell just short in all three of those games, particularly against Ferris State, with the stakes at their highest. But the reality is, Northwest's offense has to be more consistent if the Bearcats want to be competing for a title in December. Joel Osborne, Northwest's co-offensive coordinator and offensive play-caller, knows this as well as anyone.

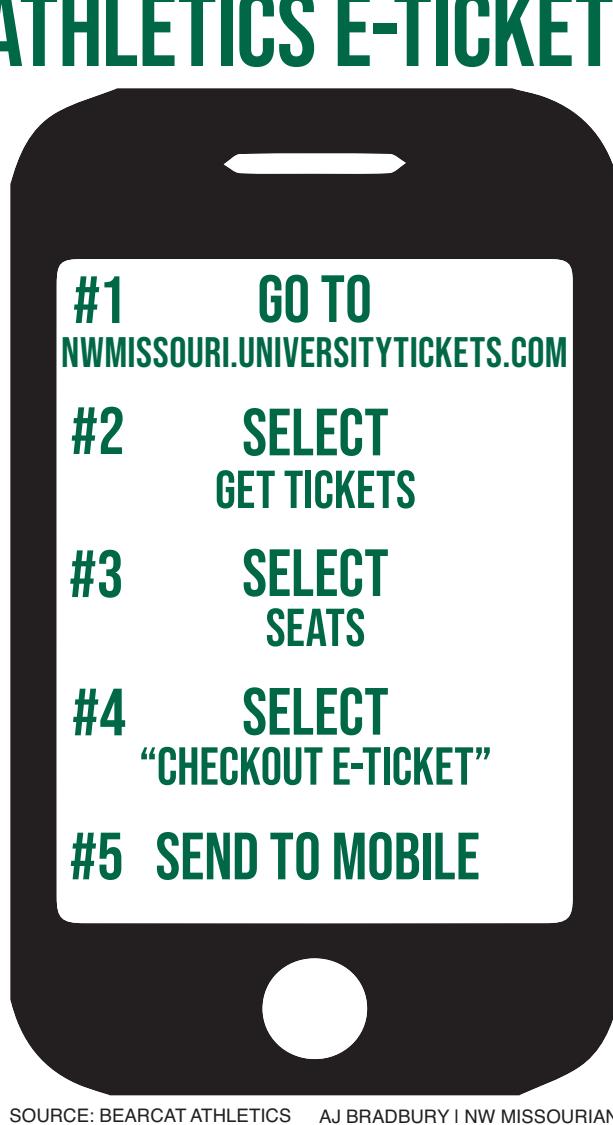
Osborne has spent much of the offseason trying to remedy the problem posed, the plague that kept the Bearcats from reaching their full potential last season: how to get the offense going early before it's too late.

He's found there is no simple answer. The Bearcats need to establish a running game early, Osborne said. And he admitted they need a better gameplan, a task that falls on him.

"The first thing is having a better plan going into those games," Osborne said. "I've thought a lot about it. The other thing, too, for us is just if we come out and we don't start off great, is having the mental ability, the mental toughness to put that aside and move on to the next play."

For Northwest, losses like the one to Central Oklahoma contain multitudes. When they happen, they feel like the end of the world when, of course, they aren't. But they come with damaging implications that can unravel into something more.

ATHLETICS E-TICKETS



SOURCE: BEARCAT ATHLETICS AJ BRADBURY | NW MISSOURIAN

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